PATENT Customer No. 22,852 Attorney Docket No. 08719.170

Examiner: Rebecca A. Blanton

AUG 0 5 2002

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

n re Application of:

Giuseppe COLOMBO et al. /

Serial No.: 09/892,480

Filed: June 28, 2001

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR

INTRODUCING IN CONTINUOUS A SUBSTANCE IN LIQUID PHASE

INTO PLASTICS GRANULES

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

RECEIVED

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TC 1700

Group Art: 1762

Sir:

REPLY TO OFFICE ACTION

In reply to the Office Action dated March 5, 2002, the period for reply having been extended to August 5, 2002 by the concurrently filed petition for two-month extension of time and payment of the requisite fee, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 45, as follows:

FINNEDAN HENDERSON FARABOW GARRETT& DUNNER LLP

1300 I Street, NW Washington, DC 20005

Fax 202.408.4400 www.finnegan.com 45. (Amended) Method according to claim 44 wherein said step c) of mixing the granules is carried out by passing the granules partially or totally coated by said substance in liquid phase through at least two superimposed groups of mixing bars arranged substantially perpendicular to each other.